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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

E45

SITUATION REPORT NUMBER 004

VENEZUELA TASK FORCE

0800 EDT Monday, April 15, 2002

RELEASED IN FULL

EMBASSY UPDATE

(SBU) The Embassy EAC will meet April 15 to decide whether or not to request authorized departure. A new warden message urged Amcits to be cautious when going out. There have been no reports of Amcit deaths or injuries. The roads to the airport are clear, and the airport is open, but flights are limited.. Police presence is minimal or nonexistent, and looting continues in many areas of Caracas and outside Maracaibo. The police and National Guard were ordered to remain in their quarters. Reports say anti-Chavez protests may occur April 15 in Caracas. *(TF/Embassy Caracas telcon and e-mail)*

COUPS LEADERS DETAINED, BUT FATE UNCERTAIN

(SBU) Chavez said, "There isn't going to be any retaliation, and no witch hunt." However, Vice President Cabello told the press that former interim President Carmona, his cabinet, and 100 military personnel were under arrest and would be tried for conspiracy of military rebellion. Attorney General Rodriguez guaranteed their protection and respect for their human rights. The Embassy cannot confirm the arrests, but believes the reports are credible. *(Embassy Caracas telcon; Globovision)*

CHAVEZ-STATE OIL COMPANY (PDVSA) RAPPROACHMENT

(U) State oil company (Petroleos de Venezuela, PDVSA) workers issued a conciliatory but firm statement in response to Chavez's April 13 decision to accept the resignation of his hand-picked PDVSA president and board. The communique suggests a willingness to dialogue with Chavez, but insists on merit-based PDVSA leadership and reinstatement of fired workers. *(Globovision)*

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